



# SHOT TALK



## Vaccine Supply Information

Unfortunately, the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District Vaccines for Children Program (VFC) is continuing to experience vaccine shortages or vaccine shipping delays with the following vaccines: DTaP, Pevnar, and Td.

**DTaP**-The supply problems with the DTaP vaccine are compounded by multiple factors. In 2000, Wyeth discontinued production of DTaP (as well as Td and DT) leaving Aventis-Pasteur and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) as the only manufacturers of this product. As the situation currently stands, Aventis is only shipping to the private sector. GSK is shipping to public providers such as San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD) and these orders are on back-order status. Representatives from GSK have indicated that sufficient supplies of DTaP will continue to be adversely affected for the next 2-3 months. You are likely experiencing similar supply problems when ordering DTaP vaccine for your private stock. In order to efficiently manage our minimal vaccine inventory of DTaP, the VFC Program will be delivering DTaP on a weekly basis. Should it become necessary to defer any child for a specific dose (i.e., 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> dose), these children are to be recalled at a later date for vaccination. There are **NO** school immunization requirement deferrals for DTaP at this time.

**Pevnar**-The demand for Pevnar (PCV7) has far exceeded national expectations for 'uptake' and production. Wyeth-Lederle Vaccines, has indicated that this situation will

continue until the end of this year and possibly into 2002. Production and FDA lot approval are the current stumbling blocks to adequate inventories nationwide. The SAMHD VFC Program has several orders of Pevnar on back-order. As mentioned previously you may be experiencing similar problems when ordering Pevnar for your private stock. In order to efficiently manage our critically low inventory of Pevnar, the SAMHD VFC Program will be supplying Pevnar on a week-to-week basis. Because of this chronic shortage, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has suggested prioritizing administering the vaccine only to those children 0-12 months, and deferring other age groups. However, these recommendations do not include kids 24 months or older considered at greatest risk for pneumococcal infection such as those who have sickle cell disease or asplenia; HIV or other immunocompromising conditions. These recommendations appear as a "Notice to Readers" in the September 14, 2001 MMWR. If your Pevnar supply is critical, your practice may consider adopting these temporary guidelines.

**Td**-The nationwide shortage of Td vaccine continues. Guidelines for Td have not changed since the last update in the June *Shot Talk* edition.

If you are receiving adequate

quantities to meet your vaccine needs, excluding the vaccines listed, there is no need to adjust your provider profile.

Because these shortages have equally affected SAMHD clinics, we are requesting that you **DO NOT** refer your patients (VFC or privately insured) to our clinics. The vaccine inventories for these clinics cannot support the additional patient load. Your support and cooperation during this time is greatly appreciated. Periodic updates will be issued on the vaccine supply situation as indicated.

For additional information, contact the SAMHD VFC Program at 207-2868.

## 2001-02 Flu Season Kicks Off

This season more flu vaccine is expected to be available than in previous years. Although some delays in distribution are projected, they are not expected to be as great those in the 2000-01 season. This year manufacturers have told the CDC to expect 60 percent of the vaccine to be delivered by the end of September, 30 percent by the end of October, and the final 10 percent in early November. The projected distribution of influenza vaccine for 2001, based on aggregate manufacturers' estimates as of August 6, 2001 is 79.1 million doses, which is greater than in 2000 and comparable with 1999.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

<i>VFC Vaccine Supply Update</i>	<i>Page 1</i>	<i>Meningococcal Drive</i>	<i>Page 3</i>
<i>Influenza Delays</i>	<i>Page 1</i>	<i>Vaccine Studies</i>	<i>Page 3</i>
<i>SAMHD Influenza Campaign</i>	<i>Page 2</i>	<i>Congressional Support</i>	<i>Page 4</i>
<i>Vaccine Failure Reports</i>	<i>Page 2</i>	<i>VFC Program Grows</i>	<i>Page 4</i>
<i>Back to School Summary</i>	<i>Page 3</i>	<i>QA/AFIX Action</i>	<i>Page 4</i>



## Flu Vaccine Arrives

Beginning Monday, October 1, 2001, the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD) will begin administering influenza and pneumococcal immunizations to high-risk persons at all SAMHD clinics as well as select senior nutrition centers and other senior programs throughout the City. In implementing this program, the SAMHD will again this year follow the national guidelines of first targeting the following high-risk groups for vaccination:

High-risk categories are defined as follows:

- **Persons 65 years of age or older**
- **Persons 6 months of age and older with a chronic health condition**
- **Health care workers (especially those with direct patient access)**
- **Household members (including children aged 6 months and older) of persons in high-risk groups**
- **Women who will be in their 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester of pregnancy during the flu season**

**High-risk patients under the age of 18 years should obtain a physician's prescription for their flu shot or show proof of high-risk eligibility.**

The SAMHD anticipates subsequent shipments of flu vaccine in November. Healthy individuals are asked to postpone their flu shot until an adequate supply of vaccine can be assured. Since the peak of the influenza season is usually in January and February, there will still be ample time to get vaccinated to ensure effective protection against influenza.

The cost of receiving a flu shot is **\$10.00**. Persons with Medicare Part B, Medicaid, *CareLink*, Community First, or CHIP membership are eligible to receive a flu shot at no cost (eligibility card must be presented at

the time of vaccination). The pneumococcal vaccine will also be available for **\$10.00** but persons who show proof of Medicare Part B coverage will not be charged for their pneumonia shot.

If you are a physician who cannot obtain flu vaccine for the upcoming season or would like more information about the SAMHD's influenza campaign activities, please contact Rita Salazar at 207-8877. SAMHD Clinic locations and times will be available through the SAMHD Immunization autodialer in October by calling (210) 207-8750 or accessing the SAMHD Immunization website at [www.samhd.org](http://www.samhd.org).

## Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine Failure Case Reports

In 2000, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommended the use of the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV7) among all children aged 2 - 23 months and for children aged 24 - 59 months who are at increased risk for pneumococcal disease. Since PCV7 was licensed for use, there have been several reports of invasive pneumococcal disease among infants and children who had received at least one dose of PCV7.

In the interest of monitoring vaccine safety and efficacy, the Respiratory Diseases Branch of CDC is interested in tracking these reports in order to identify possible vaccine failures. With the cooperation from hospitals and affected health care providers, CDC will determine the serotype of these invasive pneumococcal isolates, record host conditions that may increase the risk of severe pneumococcal disease, and monitor for vaccine lots that may be less effective. This tracking system will serve as a reference tool for further studies if needed.

CDC has provided a *Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine Failure Case Report Form* (available from SAMHD) that may be submitted

## Shot Talk

when the following 4 conditions are met:

- The child is < 5 years old
- The child has an invasive pneumococcal infection, defined as isolation of *S. pneumoniae* from a normally sterile site (e.g., CSF, blood, joint fluid, pericardial fluid)
- A pneumococcal isolate is available for serotyping, and
- A PCV7 vaccine history is available

If all four conditions are met, a PCV7 failure case report form should be completed and sent along with the isolate and CDC lab report form (CDC 3.203/CDC 56.13) through your State Health Department to the Streptococcus laboratory, Respiratory Diseases Branch, CDC. Cases of suspected PCV7 failure may also be reported to the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS), although reporting such cases is not required. However, if a clinically significant adverse event occurs after vaccination with PCV7, it should be reported immediately to VAERS <http://www.vaers.org/>.

Additional information about this voluntary reporting system can be obtained from the SAMHD Communicable Disease Reporting Section (207-8876).

## Back to School Clinics 2001

The twenty-seventh "Annual Report of Immunization Status" published by the Texas Department of Health (TDH) in cooperation with the Texas Education Agency, compiled complete immunization information on 3,958,003 students enrolled in 1,117 public school districts throughout Texas. The report indicated that 97% of Texas students were in compliance with school entry requirements except for hepatitis B.

The requirement for hepatitis B vaccine was implemented during the 1998-1999 school year for children entering kindergarten. In the first year, 90 percent of students were in compliance with this requirement.

These high levels are evidence of the commendable effort of school nurses, administrators, and health care providers in maintaining strict immunization requirements.

For the 2001 – 2002 school year, TDH deferred the Td booster dose requirement for 14-year-old students. This deferment is due to a nationwide shortage of adult Td vaccine as discussed in a previous article. The CDC has requested that any available vaccine be used for people who need immediate protection from tetanus or diphtheria. Once the deferment is lifted, all students will be required to show proof of a Td booster. This deferment applies only to the booster dose of Td; there is no change in the national or state policy for the recommended DTaP immunization schedule.

As a means of helping San Antonio parents and students comply with the new state regulations the SAMHD co-sponsored three back-to-school immunization clinics this year. During this year's back-to-school immunization drive, **1,150** people were immunized with a total of **2,454** vaccinations given. Immunizations were also available at health department clinics on a walk-in basis. Outreach sites for Back To School Immunization Clinics included: the Shot For Tots Back to School Immunization Drive at Cross Roads Mall, the First Free Shots for Kids Campaign at Mc Creless Mall, and the Feria Escolar at the La Villita Assembly Hall.

While immunization levels in the preschool population have improved considerably in recent years, our goal is to have a 90 percent immunization rate for the state's two-year-old children by the year 2005. As a leader in your community, your help with increasing immunization levels in the preschool population is essential. If you have any questions, please call (210) 207-8790.

### Meningococcal Campaign

During the 2001-2002 school year, the San Antonio Metropolitan

Health District (SAMHD) will conduct a meningococcal promotional campaign in conjunction with high schools in Bexar County. The purpose of this campaign is to increase public awareness of the danger that meningitis poses to college students.

On October 20, 1999, the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to recommend that college students, particularly freshmen living in dormitories and residence halls, be educated about meningitis and the benefits of vaccination. The committee based its recommendation on recent studies showing that college students, particularly freshmen living in dormitories, have a six-fold increased risk for contracting meningitis. The recommendation further states that information about the disease and vaccination is appropriate for other undergraduate students who also wish to reduce their risk for the disease.

One means of adequately educating college bound students and their parents about the need for meningococcal vaccination is to provide information about the disease to them as they prepare for college entry. Many universities across the nation have already begun adding meningococcal vaccination to their pre-matriculation requirements.

The SAMHD plans to work with high schools throughout Bexar County to mail informative meningococcal letters and brochures to parents of high school seniors. The SAMHD Foreign Travel clinics and H-E-B Pharmacies will be offering the meningococcal vaccine throughout the year for those students who desire to receive the vaccine.

Questions about the 2001-2002 Meningococcal Promotional Campaign should be addressed to Rita Salazar at 207-8877.



### Tripacel

The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District will be working in conjunction with Aventis Pasteur to conduct a vaccine clinical trial on Tripacel™. Tripacel™ is a multi component DTaP vaccine that has been used in Sweden, Canada, and 23 other countries since 1996. Participants in this study will be randomized to receive either Tripacel™, Hib, and IPV injections separately or Pentacel™, which is a combination vaccine of DTaP, Hib, and IPV.

The objective of the study is to assess and monitor safety, immunogenicity, and efficacy in inducing the desired immune responses in children when given in combination with other recommended vaccines for the same age group.

Children 6-12 weeks of age and in good health are eligible for this vaccine study and will receive all recommended childhood vaccinations up to 16 months of age at no cost. The Tripacel™ study consists of seven visits over a fifteen-month period. A blood draw will be required at four of the seven visits. Parents will be compensated for their travel and parking expenses throughout the duration of the study. To learn more about this vaccine study and how to participate, please call Cynthia Harrelson at 207-3968.

### Hepatitis A Vaccine Study

The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District is recruiting children less than two years of age to participate in the GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals Havrix™ Hepatitis A clinical vaccine study. Children eligible to participate in this study must be 12-17 months of age and in good health.

The study will evaluate the immunogenicity and safety of Havrix™ when the first dose is given at twelve months of age. The present study is intended to show that the co-administration of Havrix™ with other vaccines recommended at the same

age, has no negative impact on the immune response to Havrix™.

Children enrolled in this study are required to make four follow-up visits during an eight-month period. A blood draw will be required at some study visits. Participants enrolled in this study will receive all childhood vaccinations free of charge. Parents will be compensated for their travel and parking expenses throughout the duration of the study. To learn more about this vaccine study and how to participate, please call Brenda Lemke at 207-6916.

### Congressional Support for Childhood Immunizations

*Excerpts from Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez' press release August 2001.*

Thanks to our country's high childhood immunization coverage levels, many of the diseases that, not so long ago, disabled and killed millions of American children are less common -- but it does not mean these diseases have disappeared. These preventable but potentially fatal diseases are still circulating in this country and are only a plane ride away.

That's why, as Chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus' Health Care Task Force, I joined many of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to request \$214 million dollars for the National Immunization Program to continue its critical anti-disease campaign. I will continue to urge Congressional appropriators to include this critical funding request in the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Appropriations bill.

Vaccines remain the best defense available against infectious diseases today. Nonetheless, almost 20% of American toddlers will not be fully immunized and the results for them can be catastrophic.

That's why it's so important to ensure that your children are immunized.

***"Don't put it off, little lives are at stake."***

### VFC Program Welcomes You

The VFC Program would like to welcome our newest immunization allies:

Alamo City Medical Group N.W. Military Highway, Leon Springs Pediatrics, Lucina Trevino, M.D., Joseph H. Luna, M.D., Howard Galarneau Jr., M.D., South San Antonio Family Practice, Jesus Antonio Lopez, M.D., and John J. Garcia, M.D.

***Welcome to the Program!***

### QA/AFIX Action

The Quality Assurance (QA)/AFIX (Assessment, Feedback, Incentives and Exchange) team would like to congratulate the SAMHD's, Eastside Branch for achieving 90% immunization coverage for the 4:3:1:3:3 immunization series. This means that 90% of the children visiting the clinic completed their required immunizations of 4 DTap, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 3 Hib and 3 Hep B by 24 months of age. Eastside Branch received a Certificate of Accomplishment for their excellent immunization rates. The following SAMHD clinics will also be receiving certificates for their high immunization rates: Pecan Valley Clinic 82%. Highway 90 Clinic 81% and South Flores Clinic 88%. **Congratulations** to all clinics on a job well done.

Since our last newsletter the following SAMHD clinics and other private and public sites received an AFC site visit and/or records review:

Christus Santa Rosa Healthcare, Christus Santa Rosa Medical Center, Pinkston Family Practice, Child Care Associates, Dr. Tenorio, Northwest Pediatric Associates, Dr. Tabet, Dr. Luis Guimbarda, University Family Health Center, University Physician's Group, University Family Health Center S.E., San Antonio Family Medical Clinic, Gamboa Medical Center, Toepperwein Family Practice, Blanco Road Medical Clinic, San Antonio Pediatric Associates, Offices of Borenstein, Lipsitt, Johnson, Maxwell, Dr. Jalomo Pediatric Child's Clinic, Battered Women's Shelter, Infant's Shelter, Children's Shelter, Dr. Shulman,

### Shot Talk

Dr. Weise, Dr. Marcos, Holy Cross Family Practice, Las Palmas Minor Emergency Clinic, Rittiman Immunization Clinic, Isom WIC Clinic, Thousand Oaks Immunization Clinic, Kenwood Nursing Clinic, Buena Vista WIC Clinic, Pecan Valley WIC Clinic, Zarzamora Nursing Clinic, Zarzamora WIC Clinic, Marbach Immunization Clinic, Marbach WIC Clinic, Southwest Branch Nursing Clinic, Southwest Branch WIC Clinic, Las Palmas Nursing Clinic, Las Palmas WIC Clinic, South Flores WIC Clinic, West End Multi-Service Center, South East Military WIC Clinic, Dorie Miller WIC Clinic, Fredericksburg WIC Clinic, and Callaghan Immunization Clinic.

If you have any questions regarding immunization assessment software, training, or wish to schedule a site visit, please contact Keith Mason, QA/AFIX Coordinator at 207-8142.

### City Holiday Calendar

**Veterans' Day November 12, 2001**

**Thanksgiving Holidays November 22 & November 23, 2001**

### Immunization Program Contacts

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**SAMHD: [www.samhd.org](http://www.samhd.org)**

**TDH: [www.tdh.state.tx.us](http://www.tdh.state.tx.us)**

**CDC: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)**

**IAC: [www.immunize.org](http://www.immunize.org)**